

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), the ranking female member on the House Armed Services Committee, today introduced House Resolution 1651, honoring Latinos for their service and sacrifice in the United States Armed Forces.

“With nearly 150,000 Latinos currently serving on active duty, it is important to honor their service and sacrifice,” said Rep. Sanchez. “My resolution would recognize the important contributions of Latino service members and veterans to the success of our military missions. In Congress, my colleagues and I will continue fighting to provide all of service members with a quality education, affordable health care, good-paying jobs, and other basic benefits they have earned through their service.”

In addition to honoring Latino service members and veterans, House Resolution 1651 recognizes the important role Latino soldiers have played in U.S. military operations, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, Rep. Sanchez’s resolution urges the Secretary of Defense to actively support Latino service members and encourage them to aspire to leadership roles.

The text of House Resolution 1651 is available below:

Whereas Latinos have served in every United States military conflict since the Revolutionary War;

Whereas 149,411 Latinos are currently serving as active duty members in the United States Armed Services;

Whereas 80,051 Latinos are currently serving in the United States Reserves;

Whereas 28,009 Latinos are currently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas 466 Latinos have lost their lives in Operation Iraqi Freedom and 2,007 Latinos have been wounded; and

Whereas 100 Latinos have lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom and 408 Latinos have been wounded in action.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the House of Representatives—

- (1) honors Latinos for their continued service in the United States Armed Forces;
- (2) recognizes the past service of Latino members of the United States Armed Forces who have sacrificed their lives in order to defend the freedom and democracy of the United States;
- (3) commends leading Latino members of the United States Armed Forces for their long-time commitment to securing and defending the United States;
- (4) recognizes the significant role of Latino members of the United States Armed Forces to the success of ongoing military operations; and
- (5) urges the Secretary of Defense to support and encourage the Latino members of the United States Armed Forces and promote leadership amongst them.